

Jenna Davidson, Jennifer Dickerson, Kenny Malaney, Kristian Knowles

English 1102h / K. Redding

Panel Research Proposal

22 February, 2016

The Age of Artificial Consciousness

Science fiction has been used to entertain us and cause us to ask questions about the possible and potential consequences of many topics such as time travel, artificial intelligence, the discovery of advanced civilizations, and much more. Through this lens, our panel will examine and explore the applications, challenges, and dangers associated with artificial consciousness.

Our panel hopes to address the following: what is classified as a robot with consciousness, what are the applications, what are the ethics and challenges, and lastly, what are the dangers that stem from humanoid robots. To start the panel, Jennifer Dickerson will discuss *Artificial Consciousness: What is it?* Kenneth Malaney will pursue, *What are the Applications of Conscious Humanoid Robots*. Kristian Knowles will cover the intriguing question about the ethics in robotics through her paper, *The Ethics Surrounding Artificial Consciousness in Humanoid Robots*. Jenna Davidson will bring attention to the dangers of conscious robots through her research, *The End of Humanity*. We will look at how science fiction as a whole is used to analyze the various scenarios our future technology could put us in, and how best we could adapt and prepare for a future with conscious robots. To support our findings, each presenter looked at religious, philosophical, and scientific perspectives, as well as fictional works such as film and literature.

Jenna Davidson

English 1102 Honors/ Karen Redding

Research Proposal

23, February 2016

The End of Humanity

The phenomenon of humanoid robots with consciousness, is presented through science fiction as an amazing scientific revolution. However; society is not considering all of the dangers that artificial intelligence can impose on the future. My research will address the perils that humanoid robots impose on civilization. Corrupt humans will use these advanced machines to carry out their inhuman acts, such as crime and murder, more efficiently. As of right now, humans are considered to be the most intelligent and resourceful creatures on earth, but what happens if humans are no longer useful? What if humanoid robots decide they are the dominate species because they believe they are the “true” human? Once computers exceed the human brain capacity, people will not have the resources nor knowledge on how to protect themselves. Right now, man is in control of machine, but what are we to expect when machine is in control of man?

Through my research, I will investigate the various outcomes and dangers philosophers believe will happen once technology advances to that extent. Literature such as *The Future of Violence* by Benjamin Wittes, and films such as *Chappie* will help support my findings. In addition, I will propose my own idea as to how humanoid robots with consciousness are more than a scientific revolution; it will actually be the end of humanity.

Jennifer S. Dickerson

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Research Proposal

23 February 2016

Artificial Consciousness: What is it?

The advancements we have made in robotics thus far, is extraordinary. As extraordinary as those advancements have been, robots are simply used as tools. They can only perform tasks that they have been programmed to do. But, what if they could think for themselves? They somehow become self-aware, and now are able to make decisions based on their own reasoning and judgement. What would that mean for the human race? The only way to answer these questions and to gain a complete understanding, would be to first understand what consciousness is, and what it means for a robot to be conscious.

As our scientific understanding of consciousness deepens, our understanding of the implications of artificial consciousness will also deepen. Through my research, I hope to provide an understanding of what consciousness is, and what it means to be a robot with consciousness. To support my research, I will look at the various definitions of scholars, and fictional works of literature, such as, *How to Define Consciousness—And How not to Define Consciousness*, by Max Velmans, *Artificial Beings: The Conscience of a Conscious Machine*, by Jacques Pitrat, as well as *Age of Spiritual Machines: When Computers exceed Human Intelligence*-Kay Kurzwell.

Kenny Malaney

English 1102h / K. Redding

Research Proposal

23 February, 2016

Applications of Conscious Humanoid Robots

Previously, humanoid robots with consciousness have just been a figment of science fiction, but could this fiction turn into reality and help us in the future? Whether it be taking the place of soldiers in the frontline or helping a doctor in the medical field, there are many applications for these humanoid robots. My research will examine the potential for humanoid robots in the future and their integration into our modern lives. Having a robot who is self-aware greatly differs from a robot who is not. Being self-aware means that you have the ability to respond to situations without needing a program. Most robots are programmed to pursue a single continuous task and are not yet self-aware. Could programming a robot to be self-aware benefit the human race? I believe it would be revolutionary.

My research will pursue the future implications of conscious humanoid robots and how they will affect our society in a positive manner. I will use *Brains, Behavior, and Robotics-Albus* by James Sacra and *Breaking the Wall to Living Robots* as sources to accumulate vast knowledge on this particular subject matter about the many implications of these conscious humanoid robots. By having the ability to program a machine to become self-aware, the possibilities are endless. These robots will be able to solve problems beyond our human capacity and knowledge, as well as help drive advancements in the medical field and military arena.